

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG (ICRC) PINT CI

SUBJ: ICRC ACTIVITIES IN CHILE

REF: GENEVA 2549

1. SUMMARY MISOFF DISCUSSED WITH NESSI, ICRC DELEGATE
GENERAL FOR LATIN AMERICA, PRESENT SITUATION OF ICRC IN CHILE.
ICRC REVIEWING ITS ROLE IN VIEW FAILURE OF GOC ALLOW VISITS TO
DETAINEES SINCE MAY 1 AND CHARGES BY GOC AGAINST FOUR ICRC
DELEGATES END SUMMARY

1. NESSI SAID ICRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VERY CONCERNED WITH
DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE INVOLVING ICRC AND ACCORDINGLY CALLED
ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE IN CHILE BACK TO HEADQUARTERS FOR CONSUL-
TATION WHICH ENDED MAY 30.

2. ICRC DELEGATION UNABLE SINCE MAY 1 TO VISIT ANY RPT ANY
PLACES OF DETENTION IN SPITE OF SEVERAL PROTESTS BY CHIEF DELEGATE
TO MINDEF AND MININT WHO ASSURED HIM NO REASON WHY VISITS
COULD NOT BE MADE BUT WHO NEVERTHELESS FAILED GIVE CHIEF
DELEGATE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FOR VISITS BY ICRC DELEGATES
WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN EVERY MONTH OR TWO WITHOUT
HIATUS. PRESIDENT OF ICRC MARTIN WROTE AND TELEGRAPHED
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PINOCHET IN THIS MATTER BUT RECEIVED ONLY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

OF PINOCHETS'S RECEIPT OF MARTIN'S TELEGRAM.

3. ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE RETURNING TO CHILE JUNE 1 WITH LETTERS FROM MARTIN TO MININTERIOR AND MINDEFENSE. HE HOPES DELIVER LETTER TO MININT IN PERSON. LETTERS WILL OUTLINE ICRC POSITION AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH VISITS MUST BE MADE.

4. ACCORDING TO NESSI, IF ICRC VISITS NOT RPT NOT ALLOWED BE RESUMED OR IF ICRC CONDITIONS FOR VISITS NOT RPT NOT MET, ICRC EXEC COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY AUTHORIZE END VISITS OF ICRC DELS TO DETAINEES AND MAKE THIS KNOWN PUBLICLY WITH REASONS THEREFOR. NESSI EXPECTS TRAVEL CHILE ABOUT JULY 10 TO REVIEW SITUATION AND MAKE ON-SITE DECISION ON FUTURE ICRC OPERATIONS THERE.

5. IF VISITS TO DETAINEES NOT ALLOWED OR IF ICRC DISCONTINUES VISITS ITSELF BECAUSE ITS CONDITIONS NOT MET, ICRC HOPES HE ABLE CONTINUE REST OF PROGRAM, I.E. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEE FAMILIES. ICRC DOES NOT THEREFORE PLAN CUT STAFF IN CHILE DURING SECOND HALF 1974 AND WILL NEED FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO CARRY ON ITS WORK. THIS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

6. ICRC NOT SURE WHY VISITS TO DETAINEES HALTED. PERHAPS DUE TO INTENSE DISLIKE OF ICRC ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF OF DETAINEES AND FAMILIES WHICH FELT BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN AIR FORCE AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, IN ARMY. ANOTHER REASON MAY BE PROTEST AGAINST FOUR ICRC DELEGATES LODGED BY A PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR THAT DELEGATES HAD ACTED IN NON-PARTISAN, NON-PROFESSION MANNER IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES. ICRC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXAMINED THESE CHARGES AND FOUND THEM GROUNDLESS BUT IN EFFORT CONCILIATE JUNTA, IS NEVERTHELESS REPLACING FOUR CONCERNED DELEGATES EVEN THOUGH THEY BLAMELESS. RELATIONS OF ICRC WITH HOST COOUNTRY CHILE ARE MOST DIFICULT IN WORLD AND ICRC DELEGATES THERE "FED UP WITH GAMES JUNTA IS PLAYING", NESSI SAID.

7. OTHER THAN ABOVE, PROBLEMS WHICH ICRC DEALING WITH REMAIN MUCH THE SAME, NESSI CONCLUDED. THERE ARE STILL LARGE NUMBERS OF DETAINESS. EVIDENCE OF ILL-TREATMENT AND TORTURE WAS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSERVED BY ICRC DELEGATES ALTHOUGH NOT TO EXTENT AS PREVIOUSLY. THIS DECLINE MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM ACTUAL DECLINE IN BRUTALITY OR IN FAILURE OF ICRC DELEGATES BE ALLOWED VISIT DETAINEES WHO HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO ILL-TREATMENT. ICRC GRATIFIED, HOWEVER, BY CHANGES OF DEATH SENTENCES FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS TO LIFT IMPRISONMENT. ICRC BELIEVES NUMBERS OF DETAINEES AWAITING JUDGMENT WILL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH AND THEREFORE HOPES PRECEDENT FOR COMMUTING DEATH SENTENCES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. ABRAMS

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